

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

a A remote keyboard has keys which are illuminated for identification under *a* dim motherboard. For a first embodiment of the invention, the identifying symbol or symbols on each key ^{*cap*}~~top~~ of the keyboard is formed from luminescent material. Alternatively, the symbol or symbols on each key ^{*cap*}~~top~~ are formed from a translucent material in which tritium is embedded. Tritium, which has a half-life of about 12.5 years, emits low-energy beta particle radiation. The radiation, which is of sufficiently low energy that it may be blocked by a piece of paper, may be rendered innocuous by placing clear plastic radiation shields over each key ^{*cap*}~~top~~. For a second embodiment of the invention, the key caps themselves are molded from luminescent material, while the symbols are formed from contrasting black or dark-colored non-luminescent material. A third embodiment of the invention utilizes fiber optics to convey light from at least one low-power source, such as a light-emitting diode, to each of the various key caps, each of which is molded from a translucent material. ^{*i*}The symbols on the key caps are of a color which contrasts with that of the key caps. Black letters on light colored translucent key caps are the preferred combination. Another embodiment of the present invention for backlighting a keyboard is to use a transparent projector pane positioned beneath translucent or transparent key caps on which identifying symbols are printed. Light from a light source at the edge of the projector pane is transmitted throughout the pane. An aperture beneath each key top projects light up through the key caps, illuminating the symbols.